

*Fact Sheet
October, 2004*

DTSC Finishes Soil and Groundwater Investigation



WORLD RADIATOR, 8336 SKYWAY, PARADISE

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



*California
Environmental
Protection Agency*



Main building at World Radiator

DTSC REPORTS RESULTS AND ASKS FOR YOUR INPUT

On September 27, 2004, The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) finished an investigation of the former World Radiator and Air Conditioning (World Radiator) at 8336 Skyway in Paradise. We collected samples from 67 locations. Samples showed the shallow soil throughout World Radiator has elevated levels of metals: antimony, lead, and arsenic. We decided that these metals pose a potential risk if people come in contact with them over a long period of time. Therefore, DTSC will prepare a cleanup plan for World Radiator.

DTSC wants to know your concerns and ideas about World Radiator. Please fill out the enclosed questionnaire and send it back to us by November 1, 2004.

LOCATION, BACKGROUND, HISTORY

World Radiator is about one-third of an acre, surrounding land use is commercial and residential. Residences are within 100 feet of the site. Paradise Charter Middle School is about one mile from World Radiator.

The site operated as a radiator and air conditioning repair facility since the 1970s. Operations included repairing and testing of automotive radiators and air conditioning units. Activities included sanding, soldering, painting and storage of spent antifreeze.

On the basis of a complaint, DTSC and Butte County investigated World Radiator to see if their activities were contaminating the environment. We collected samples and found contamination around the business.

The investigation led to a criminal case against the owner/operator. The court ordered the operating business closed in 1997. From 1997 to 2002, we tried to get the owner to clean up the site. From 2000 to 2002, DTSC sought and received state funding to do the necessary cleanup work. From August to November 2002, we installed a fence around the property, pumped out the septic tank and removed a number of drums containing hazardous materials as well as other waste material. We fenced the property to keep people from entering and coming into contact with the contaminated soil.

SOIL AND GROUNDWATER SAMPLING RESULTS

Between November 2002 and October 2003, DTSC collected samples to look for soil and groundwater contamination at World Radiator. We sampled:

- Soil throughout the property;
- Concrete and wood chips from the main building and surrounding concrete pad;

- Groundwater through monitoring wells;
- Soil where a geophysical survey showed buried material might be present.

Samples showed elevated lead throughout the top foot of soil at World Radiator. Sampling found elevated arsenic and antimony at scattered spots throughout the site. Wood and concrete chip samples show elevated levels of antifreeze, arsenic and lead. The geophysical survey did not locate any buried contamination underneath World Radiator. Groundwater samples showed antimony in the groundwater. However, now, no one uses this groundwater for any purpose.

These metals exist naturally in low concentrations. Lead can cause damage to the nervous system or blood cells if present at elevated levels in the human body. Children are at the highest risk from lead exposure because their bodies are still developing. Arsenic can be highly poisonous and people use it in insect and plant killing chemicals. Swallowing arsenic has been reported to increase the risk of cancer in the liver, bladder, kidneys, prostate, and lungs.

Antimony, when mixed into alloys, is used in batteries, solder, sheet and pipe metal, bearings, castings, and pewter. Breathing high levels for a long time can irritate your eyes and lungs and can cause heart and lung problems, stomach pain, and stomach ulcers.

OUR NEXT STEPS

DTSC will study several possible ways to clean up World Radiator. Sometime in the fall of 2004 or the winter of 2005, we will propose a plan to clean up the soil and groundwater.

At that time, we will give the public a chance to review and comment on our proposed cleanup plan. We will send you a fact sheet with information about our proposal. The local library will have a copy of the proposed cleanup plan for your review.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Please fill out the community survey questionnaire and send it to Nathan Schumacher at the address to the right. The survey results will help:

- show the level of community interest
- identify specific concerns about World Radiator
- DTSC to plan future public involvement activities.

QUESTIONS?

For answers to questions you may have, please contact DTSC staff listed:

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If you are from the media, please contact Lisa Gray, Public Information, (916) 324-0926 or LGray@dtsc.ca.gov.

INFORMATION AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

You may read the investigation report and other related reports in the:

Butte County Public Library
5922 Clark Road
Paradise CA 95969
(530) 872-6320

You may review all World Radiator records at:

DTSC Sacramento Office
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento CA 95826

For arrangements, please call (916) 255-3779.

Cut out and mail

ARE YOU ON DTSC's MAILING LIST?

If you would like to be on the World Radiator mailing list, fill out the information below and mail back to:
Nathan Schumacher, Public Participation Specialist, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA, 95826

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please take me off the mailing list.

Note: While this mailing list is solely for DTSC use, we consider the list to be a public record

NOTICE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED

TDD users can get more information about World Radiator by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378). Please ask for Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650 about World Radiator.

